

ALASKAN GOLD 2 TOO WAH TOKENS

by Mike Locke

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<http://www.calgoldcoin.com/alaska.htm>

Nathan Joseph was a manufacturing jeweler who immigrated from Liverpool, England in 1868 to San Francisco, California to join his older brothers who had made California fractional gold coins in 1852. In 1906 Joseph's business was destroyed by the earthquake and fire, so he created new designs for the California Gold tokens that he had been manufacturing since 1883. In 1910 Nathan Joseph created and registered an entirely new design that we know today as the Alaska Gold 2 TooWah token. The obverse of this token features an Inuit dressed in a fur parka facing front with the fictitious date of 1862 underneath. The reverse of this token features a large 2 with TooWah beneath, stars above, tusks to right and left and a dog sled underneath the overall design. This design is illustrated in gold ink in Nathan Joseph's advertisements that were published after 1910. Nathan Joseph died in the early 1920s.

TooWah is Inuit for "walrus tusk", the fictitious denomination of the token. The token illustrates 2 Walrus tusks on the reverse.

One pair of Nathan Joseph's 2 TooWah dies survived into the 1940s. At that time Tatham Stamp and Coin sold gilt copper restrikes of the original tokens. The restrike tokens weigh about 0.75 grams. Compare with Joseph's solid gold tokens which weigh at least 1.2 grams.

The following varieties are known to the author. These are listed in discovery order rather than emission order. Rarity values are by the Sheldon scale as used in "California Pioneer Fractional Gold" by Breen and Gillio.

Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #1.



Obv: ***ALASKAN GOLD*** 1862 around Inuit facing front in Parka. 2 away from the inner ring, small blunt stars, and no hairs that stick out prominently.

Rev: 5 5-pt stars in a semicircle above 2 TooWah above a dog sled. Tusks at left and right, with PAT. 1910 to far left and RD.1910 to far right. Die A1R21.

Comment: gilt brass. Most examples seen are worn and have most of the gilding missing. Rarity 4.

Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #2.



Obv: ***ALASKAN GOLD*** 1862 around Inuit facing front in Parka. 2 away from the inner ring, small blunt stars, and no hairs that stick out prominently. Die of #1.

Rev: 5 5-pt stars in a semicircle above 2 TooWah above a dog sled. Tusks at left and right, with PAT. 1910 to far left and RD.1910 to far right. Die A1R21.

Comment: Solid gold, same dies as #1. Rarity 5.

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Mike Locke has come through again with an excellent article on Alaska gold tokens. As most of you know, these tokens were not made in Alaska, did not circulate in Alaska, and the only connection with Alaska is probably the statement "Alaska Gold" on them! Still, they are neat and collectible items, and they have found their way into many Alaska collections.

It has amazed me since I first learned of these gold tokens that so many die varieties exist. Either a whole lot more of these were made than have survived, or the die life was very short.

Auction results from eBay this month were mixed. While there were a lot of listings, many items went unsold. The better material continues to do very well, while the medium range and lower range items bring only the opening bid or no bid at all.

Military Challenge coins are also appearing with regularity on eBay. These are starting to get a bit overwhelming, and we will bring you these as space permits. With 9 pages, there was plenty of room this month, with more waiting in the wing for the next issue.

Please note our Spring Auction on the last two pages of this issue. The auction date is April 16. Only two tokens are offered, but there are some 1 oz. silver medals that are relatively scarce. This will be a good opportunity to fill in some holes in your modern collection.

Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist, published 10 times per year, is a publication of Alaska Rare Coins. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.

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OBITUARY

Sadly, we must report on the passing of our Canadian Correspondent, Jerry Remick. Jerry contributed information, primarily on Trade Dollars, since 1980. He was 76.



Professionally, Mr. Remick was trained as a geologist. He worked for the Quebec Department of Natural Resources for over 35 years, retiring about 10 years ago.

Mr. Remick received the J. Douglas Ferguson Award in 2001, the highest honor in Canadian numismatics. He was a prolific writer for coin publications, including Canadian Coin News. He was a member of numerous numismatic organizations and his interests were wildly diverse. Over the years, he served as an efficient conduit for information. Numismatic publications will be the poorer with his passing.

STATE MEDAL MINTAGES 2004

SILVER:	mintage	+/-	%
2 oz. Proof	99	-86	-46%
1 oz. Proof	6,020	-1,298	-18%
1 oz. Matte	640	-101	-16%
1/2 oz. Proof	528	-258	-33%
1/4 oz. Proof	878	-200	-19%
1/10 oz. Proof	1,040	-361	-26%
1/20 oz. Proof	509	-204	-29%

GOLD:			
3 oz. Proof	19	unchanged	unchanged
1 oz. Proof	134	-36	-21%
1/2 oz. Proof	105	-3	-3%
1/4 oz. Proof	23*	new size	new size
1/10 oz. Proof	182	-55	-23%
1/20 oz. Proof	93	-39	-30%

* - This is a new size for the gold state medals. We were not aware of it until the mintage figures came out.

It should be noted that all mintages are down from the previous year, with the exception of the 3 oz. gold, which is unchanged. 2003 was an "up" year from 2002, the year of the crab. Compared to 2002, the mintages for 2004 are mixed, with some higher and some lower.

PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Anchorage , Cheechako, 12½¢, B-11biv	15.00OB	Nome , Horseshoe Cafe, 25¢, B-27a	483.00
Bering River , H. Pkg., 25¢, B-1c	110.00OB	Odiak , Storey, B-1a	579.00
Bering River , H. Pkg., \$5, B-1f	195.00OB	Palmer , ARRC, 1¢, B-1a	129.26
Bethel , N.C. Co., 25¢, B-2a	125.00OB	Palmer , ARRC, 5¢, B-1b	98.79
Brooks (Livengood), Brooks P.R., B-1a	292.12	Palmer , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	51.01
Chatanika , Bingle Fritz, 25¢, B-1a	OB95.00NB	Palmer , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	36.35
Chatanika , Bingle Fritz, \$1, B-1c	OB95.00NB	Palmer , ARRC, 25¢, B-1d	159.26
Chitina , Navada Bar, 12½¢, B-4a	95.00OB	Palmer , ARRC, 50¢, B-1e	140.11
Circle , Cooper and Eaton, 25¢, B-2a	650.00OB	Petersburg , OK's Place, 5¢, B-7a	35.00OB
Cordova , C&M The Club, 25¢, B-10a	OB25.00NB	Quinhagak , Jean, \$1, B-1c	35.00OB
Cordova , Horseshoe Liquor, 6¼¢, B-20a	OB60.00NB	Savoonga , R.C. Co., set of 8, B-1	OB90.00NB
Cordova , Wind. Hotel, 12½¢, B-41c	36.00	Seldovia , Johansen, 12½¢, B-3b	417.12
Dillingham , Bradford, 5¢, B-1a	95.00OB	Seward , Northern, 12½¢, B-8a	295.00
Douglas , D. Cigar Store, 5¢, B-9a	95.00OB	Seward , Northern, 12½¢, B-8biii	92.80
Eagle , Eagle Trd. Co., \$5 book, B-1e	83.00	Seward , Northern, 12½¢, B-8biii	OB30.00NB
Eek , McIntyre, 25¢, B-1a	OB45.00NB	Seward , Up & Up, 12½¢, B-18a	223.71
Egegik , Nakat Pkg., 10¢, B-1b	326.62	Sitka , Anderson, 5¢, B-3b	150.00OB
Fairbanks , Brown Derby, 5¢, B-10a	20.51	Sitka , Witz, 5¢, B-17a	OB40.00NB
Fairbanks , Horseshoe C.S. encased cent	RLOB29.99NB	Skagway , Anderson, 6¼¢, B-1a	OB80.00NB
Fairbanks , Horseshoe C.S. encased cent	RLOB19.99NB	Skagway , Anderson, 6¼¢, B-1a	RLOB50.00NB
Fairbanks , ACW, B-T1a	OB49.99NB	Skagway , BPOE, B-2b	OB35.00NB
Haines , Brouillette, 10¢, B-3a	95.00OB	Skagway , Horseshoe, B-13a	75.00OB
Haines , Heller, 12½¢, B-7a	80.00	Skagway , M&E, 25¢, B-16c	15.00OB
Juneau , Alaskan Hotel, 6¼¢, B-2a	23.50	Skagway , M&E, \$5, B-16f	OB30.00NB
Juneau , Alaskan Hotel, 12½¢, B-2b	30.00OB	Skagway , M&E set of 7, B-16	OB140.00NB
Juneau , Juneau Billiard, 12½¢, B-32a	805.00	Skagway , Mascotte, 5¢, B-17a	65.00OB
Juneau , Elks, 12½¢, B-19bi	14.64	Skagway , Mascotte, 5¢, B-17a	OB25.00NB
Juneau , Imperial Cigar, 12½¢, B-29b	OB35.00NB	Thane , AGM Club, 12½¢, B-1a	19.00
Juneau , Mecca, 6¼¢, B-50b	61.00	Treadwell , T Cigar Store, 6¼¢, B-1aai	542.32
Juneau , Randle's Bar, 5¢, B-62a	437.65	Valdez , Blackwell/Rowdy, B-2a	76.00
Juneau , Spickett & MacGregor, 6¼¢, B-67a	437.62	Valdez , Buffet, 12½¢ T.C., B-4a	OB141.00NB
(Juneau) , Toney's Comet, 12½¢, B-69a	OB75.00NB	Valdez , Buffet, 12½¢, B-4b	35.00OB
Katalla , Commerce, 12½¢, B-2a	857.12	Valdez , Day, 6¼¢, B-5a	104.50
Katalla , Northern, Smith & Duval, B-5a	OB850.00NB	Valdez , I&B, B-9a	90.00OB
Katalla , Northern, Smith & Duval, B-5a	RLOB800.00	Valdez , Northern, 6¼¢, B-15a	OB40.00NB
Ketchikan , BPOE, 12½¢, B-5a	OB75.00NB	Wacker , W. Trans. Co., 10¢ fare, B-T3b	OB99.00
Ketchikan , Finzel's, 5¢, B-15aai	78.57	Yes Bay , APF, 5¢, B-3a	46.00
Ketchikan , Kushi, 5¢, B-27a	OB20.00NB	Yukokaket , Lewis, 12½¢, B-1a	394.00
Ketchikan , Katch. Pharmacy, 5¢, B-22a	46.51	Alaska Gold , One Pinch, 1897	256.45
Ketchikan , Lucky Spot, 25¢, B-32a	76.55	Alaska Gold , AYPE 1 DWT	174.39
Ketchikan , Scandia, 5¢, B-55a	OB50.00NB	Alaska Gold , Gilt 2 TooWah, slabbed as Parka Head	OB9.99withdrawn
Ketchikan , Scoug's, \$1, B-56d	40.00OB	Dawson, YT , Davies & Frey, 12½¢	75.00OB
Ketchikan , Alaska Cab, Full Fare, B-T1a	77.76	Whitehorse, YT , Alguire, 25¢	OB35.00NB
Ketchikan , White Cab, One Stage Fare, B-T6c	OB19.99NB	Tierra del Fuego , Spring Hill, 50¢	OB299.00NB
Ketchikan , White Cab, One Fare, B-T6a	OB24.99NB	Alaska Tin medal, St. Louis World's Fair 1904	49.99OB
Kodiak , B&B, 12½¢, B-1a	224.26	BC & Yukon Royal Arch Masonic Penny	9.99OB
Kodiak , Brown Bear Bus, B-T1ai	14.99OB	Rainier Beer Alaska's Favorite Encased Cent	30.99
Kodiak , USNAB, B-T2a	75.00OB	Wyatt Earp Dexter Saloon chips (fantasy)	100,000.00NB
Latouche , Little, 12½¢, B-2a	OB195.00NB		
McCarthy , Golden Hotel, 12½¢, B-2a	302.61		
Mt. Village , Sheppard Trd., set of 6, B-1	80.00OB		
Nome , Colorado Pharm. 12½¢, B-16a	995.00		

(only reported opening bid last month)

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist
RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve
BIN = Buy it now

ALASKAN GOLD 2 TOOWAH, CONT.

Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #3.

Obv: ***ALASKAN GOLD*** 1862 around Inuit facing front in Parka. 2 against the inner ring top most hairs point between A and N, broad nose.

Rev: 5 5-pt stars in a semicircle above 2 TooWah above a dog sled. Tusks at left and right, with PAT. 1910 to far left and RD.1910 to far right. Die A1R21.

Comment: 2 known, rarity 8.



Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #4.

Obv: ***ALASKAN GOLD*** 1862 around Inuit facing front in Parka. 2 against the inner ring top most hair points to left stand of N, narrow nose.

Rev: 7 5-pt stars in a semicircle above 2 TooWah above a dog sled. Tusks at left and right, with PAT. 1910 to far left and RD.1910 to far right. Star 1 very close to T with a point aiming at 9. Right tusk wide, long and very close to sled. Die A1R22.

Comment: Seen with a heavily clashed obverse. Rarity 7.



Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #5.

Obv: ***ALASKAN GOLD*** 1862 around Inuit facing front in Parka. 2 against the inner ring top most hairs point between A and N, broad nose. Die of #3.

Rev: 7 5-pt stars in a semicircle above 2 TooWah above a dog sled. Tusks at left and right, with PAT. 1910 to far left and RD.1910 to far right. Star 1 away from T with a point aiming at second 1. Star 7 fragmented. Right tusk wide, long and very close to sled. Die A1R23.

Comment: Rarity 7



Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #6.

Obv: ***ALASKAN GOLD*** 1862 around Inuit facing front in Parka. 2 against the inner ring top most hairs point between A and N, broad nose. Die of #3.

Rev: 7 5-pt stars in a semicircle above 2 TooWah above a dog sled. Tusks at left and right, with PAT. 1910 to far left and RD.1910 to far right. Star 1 away from T with a point aiming at 9. Right tusk narrow, short and away from sled. Die A1R24.

Comment: Rarity 7



Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #7.

Obv: ***ALASKAN GOLD*** 1862 around Inuit facing front in Parka. 2 against the inner ring top most hair points to left stand of N, narrow nose. Die of #4

Rev: 7 5-pt stars in a semicircle above 2 TooWah above a dog sled. Tusks at left and right, with PAT 1910 to far left and RD 1910 to far right. Star 1 close to T with a point aiming at 9. Right tusk narrow, long and away from sled. RD 1910 in smaller letters than the others. Die A1R25.

Comment: Rarity 7



EDITOR'S NOTE: All illustrations are enlarged to show detail.

YUKON/KLONDIKE GOLD TOKENS

When Mike Locke sent in his first article (An Introduction to Alaska Gold Tokens, June, 2004), he also sent scans of two gold tokens bearing Yukon or Klondike designs. I have had these around since then, and now is a good time to run them in the newsletter.



The first says "Klondike Charm" and the reverse has a midnight sun. I recall seeing one on eBay in the last 5 years, but don't remember much else. This piece has been observed with a loop, and with the loop removed.



The second has a nice cabin, Dawson and the date of gold discovery 1896. The reverse is similar to a Canadian 5¢ silver coin, and has the legend Klondike Gold, RD, 1910. In Canada, RD means registered design.

No further information is known at this time.

As with the 2 TooWah tokens, these are shown enlarged for ease of viewing.

TIERRA DEL FUEGO GOLD - JULIUS POPPER

We have mentioned Popper before in previous issues. The minting of his first gold tokens took place at El Paramo on the island of Tierra del Fuego. Because of the low quality of striking, subsequent minting was done at the mint in Buenos Aires.

We have never seen a specimen of an El Paramo striking until recently. American Numismatic Rarities, in their April auction, is selling the foreign gold coins of the Eliasberg collection, and one of the varieties of the El Paramo striking is offered.

Illustrated to the above right, greatly enlarged to show detail, it can be seen that the engraving and quality of strike is quite crude. The description states "POPPER in central cartouche over crossed pickaxes." These are not readily visible. What appears to be die deterioration can be seen between 8:00 and 10:00 on the 5 Gramos side. The 5 is also very crude, running through the A of Gramos.

Below right is piece from the Buenos Aires mint. It can be noted that the detail and engraving is much better, and the piece is more uniform. The crossed pick and hammer are visible behind "Popper."

The El Paramo 5 Gramos is estimated at \$4,000 to \$7,000. Your editor would not be surprised to see it break \$10,000. It is a true territorial gold coin, struck at the mine site. It just does not get any better than that!



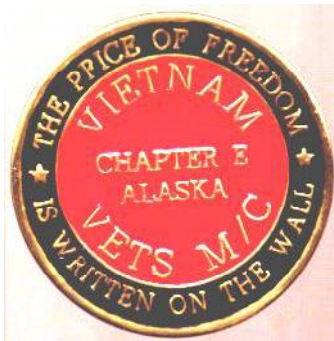
MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS - ALASKA



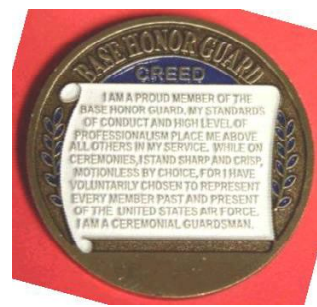
ALASKA: U.S. Army Dental Activity. Ft. Greeley, Ft. Wainwright and Ft. Richardson. Bronze. Sorry, but a poor scan from eBay.



CLEAR AFS: 13th Space Warning Sq., Sentinel of Space. Silver color with blue, black and white enamel.



ALASKA: Vietnam Vets M/C (Motorcycle Club), Chapter E. Red enameled center, black around the rim on a brass base. 41mm (submitted by Ken Rieck).



(EIELSON AFB): Base Honor Guard, To Honor with Dignity. Does not say Eielson. Possibly a generic piece for Base Honor Guards. Red, white and blue enamel.



ALASKA: Alaska Air National Guard, 176th Aerial Port Flight. Cargo plane with a cartoon dog's face, parachute behind. Enameled in blue, green, red, black, white and yellow. The reverse is brass.



Obverse has antiqued silver finish, reverse is bronze.
EIELSON AFB: 354th Fighter Wing, Presented by the Commanding General. Bronze with white, red, yellow, green and blue enamel.



ALASKA: The State Command Sergeant Major. Bronze with yellow, dark blue and light blue enamel.



low, green and blue enamel.
FT. WAINWRIGHT: Bassett Army Community Hospital. Illustration reduced. Actual size 45mm. Bronze.

MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



THULE, GREENLAND: Team Thule United, Guardians of the High Frontier / Crossing into the Arctic Circle 76° 36'N. Map of Greenland flanked by the flags of the U.S., Canada, Greenland and Denmark. Bright brass with blue, pale blue, red and white enamel.



KEFLAVIK NAS, ICELAND: 932nd Air Control Squadron, Iceland Air Defense System. Bronze and oxidized cupronickel.



KEFLAVIK, ICELAND: U.S. Airforce, Airman Leadership School. Red, white, blue and yellow enamel on bronze.



ICELAND: Iceland Defense Force, Joint Reserve Unit with US Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. Bronze with multicolored enamel.



FOR THE RECORD



BROOKS: Brooks Pool Room, \$. Listed, not illustrated, B-1a. Questionable attribution.



LABRADOR WEST, NFLD: Kinsmen Club, (good for one drink). Gold on red plastic, 42mm.



SOLDOTNA: Elks Lodge 2705, Bob Dubey/E.R., River of Kings. Brass, 34mm.



NEWFOUNDLAND: Hockey Association Championship, 1903. Silver, 25mm with loop.



USHUAIA, ARGENTINA: Casino Club, "E" value. Pinkish Red center, yellow border, 33mm. Ushuaia is on Tierra del Fuego.

AUCTION: SATURDAY, APRIL 16 IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA.

Below and on the next page are the Alaska items that will appear in our spring auction. If you would like a complete auction catalogue, please call or email. Bids may placed by mail, email or phone.

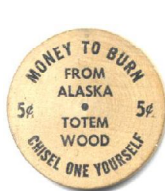
- 240 **Alaska Token: Tanana**, Timothy's Place, good for 25¢ in trade, B-10a. This is a dug piece, showing the usual corrosion but it is really not that bad. 125.00+
- 241 **Yukon Token: Dawson**, B & M, good for 12½¢ in trade. All Yukon tokens are scarce and expensive, but this is one of the more common ones. A nice XF or better. 125.00+
- 242 **Kentucky Fried Chicken of Alaska!** This is one of the strangest sets in the last 25 years. In 1981 Kentucky Fried Chicken issued three ¼ ounce silver ingots. The designs are: 1) Alaska map/Bull Moose; 2) Alaska flag/Grizzly Bear; and 3) Mt. McKinley/Dall sheep. The Colonel's smiling face is also on the animal side of each ingot. All are in their original flips with descriptive literature. 15.00+
- 243 **Fox Lions Club Medal**, 1 oz. silver, undated (1975). In the winter of 1975, Red Olson hauled the first barrel of oil from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez by dog sled, beating the first oil through the pipeline by a couple of years. Of all the pipeline related medals, this is one of the nicest, and it does not appear for sale very often. 20.00+
- 244 **Four Pipeline-related Silver Medals**. Includes 1) Valdez, Port of the Supertankers, 2) Exxon Valdez, The Ship for Hell, 3) Price/Ahtna Alyeska Safety Award and 4) Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, 25 years. The first three are one ounce silver rounds, and the last is a one ounce silver ingot. Here is a chance to pick up some scarce modern pieces. Four one ounce silver medals. 100.00
- 245 **State of Alaska Medal Pendant**, 1991. This 1/10 ounce pure silver medal (approximately 100 minted) is housed in a special tear-drop shaped sterling silver bezel that was made specifically for these medals. We bought a few of the bezels around 1990 and have long since used them up. The medal depicts circling salmon and was the final year for Alaska Precious Metals before their bankruptcy. 48.00
- 246 **Iditarod Silver Medals**, 1991. This lot contains the regular issue and the error medal. 2,000 medals were authorized and stated as such on the reverse. The error medal shows the mintage of 5,000 which came about as the wrong reverse die was mated with the obverse. Only 25 medals were struck with this error! We see the regular issue listed at \$150. What is the error worth?? Two pieces. 150.00+
- 247 **Alaska Highway/Lend Lease Medals**. In 1991, we designed a medal (dated 1992) to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Highway and the Lend Lease program of World War II. The first version of this medal did not have markings in the middle of the highway. We made only 450. The second version was even worse, with squiggly lines making the road look like a river. Only one of these was made. Finally, the third version had the marking in the highway. The bulk of the mintage was this third version. We offer here a sample of the first and third versions. We are not ready to part with the second version yet! 60.00+
- 248 **State of Alaska Medal Set**, 1993. Includes 1 oz., ¼ oz. and 1/10 oz. medals, all in their original packaging. Only 862 of the 1/10 medals were minted. This is a popular year with the wolf on the obverse. The 1 oz. medal is proof-like. The current list price on these is \$55. 40.00-55.00
- 249 **UAF Rifle Team**. About five years ago, (100) serial numbered 1 oz. pure silver medals were struck to commemorate the National NCAA Champion Nanooks. The University Logo and rifle, along with the dates 1994, 1999 and 2000 are depicted on the obverse, with the University of Alaska seal on the reverse. This is number 95 and it is in its original case. The idea was to continue to add years on the obverse die as the team extended its winning streak (their streak ended this year at 6 consecutive championships), but no more were even struck. A scarce medal. 50.00+
- 250 **Binky, 1994-95 Man of the Year medal**. Well not really a man. The obverse shows Binky, the Polar Bear with a sneaker in his mouth. If memory serves me, someone got too close to the bars in Binky's cage and got a bit scratched up and lost a sneaker. We do not believe that Binky was trying to hurt the person. He was just offended that the sneaker was made in a foreign sweat shop! 30.00
- 251 **State of Alaska 1/20 oz. Gold Medal**, 1998. Only 226 of these were struck in which depicted a moose on the obverse. The last price list we saw showed these at \$110. Still housed in its original case. 80.00-110.00
- 252 **White Pass & Yukon Railroad Medals**. This historic railroad had its origins in 1898 when construction began. It was finished in 1899 and operated until 1982, and started up again in 1989. There were some medals struck in 1998 with a train on the obverse. The second was struck in 1999 with

SPRING AUCTION, CONT.

- the railroad coming into Lake Bennett, B.C. Both are proofs struck in one troy ounce silver by the Alaska Mint, and are in their original cases. 90.00
- 253 **Whitehorse, Yukon Gambling Money.** Issued by the Whitehorse Lions Club for the "Trail of '98 Carnival," probably 1960 or later. Printed in orange on green paper, it is a "10" note, "Drawn on the Banks of the Yukon River." Nice gold panner on the front, Lions International symbol on the back. VF or so. 20.00
- 254 **Alaska Book: A Bibliography of Alaskan Literature, 1724 to 1924** by Judge James Wickersham, 1927. This is an invaluable reference for one researching Alaska history. Perfect for those interested in Alaska's past, like token collectors. All intact but the binding is no longer tight. The lettering on the spine has faded. A scarce book, hard to find. 175.00
- 255 **Alaska Book: Melvin Rick's Alaska Bibliography: An Introductory Guide to Alaskan Historical Literature**, edited by Stephen W. and Betty J. Haycox, 1977. While much newer than Wickersham, it does not replace it, but rather supplement it. Together, these books can point researchers in the right direction. 25.00+
- *****

MONEY TO BURN

by David Phillips



The Farthest East (mainland) Alaska Wood.

Eagle - This small community of about 140 persons is located 12 miles west of the Alaska-Yukon border. It was originally established in the late 1890s on the Yukon River 105 miles downstream from Dawson City. The reason for Eagle's founding - the search for gold in the area and the need for a supply and government center. It's rise in 1897 and decline by 1911 was all attributed to the stampede to the area in search of gold, then the exodus to other gold strikes, eg; Nome and Fairbanks.

Today, Eagle is connected to both the Yukon and Alaska by the 160 mile Taylor Highway which runs from Teslin Junction on the Alaska Highway (near the town of Tok) and terminates in Eagle. The Top of the World Highway runs from Dawson City to the Taylor Highway with their junction at Chicken, then right to Eagle, a total of 144 miles.

The present residents of Eagle rely on some gold mining still in the area, plus tourism in the summer (many historic buildings) and some government work (Parks, highway maintenance, school, postal service, fire fighting, etc.).

The Eagle Road House, the original building was built in 1898 and was of log construction, was only named and operated as such from 1972 to 1978. The proprietors during these years were Susie and Ralph Helmer.

They had 1,000 of these woods produced and distributed them as follows. A big jar of these woods sat on the counter of the combination restaurant, motel and store. The woods were sold as souvenirs or were given out as "bonuses" when purchases were made.

When the Road House closed - first the restaurant closed followed shortly by the motel - in 1978, the name changed. Only the store function continued for another five years. Thus, the Eagle Road House was in existence for only 5 or 6 years, from 1972 to 1978

